

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007

### 1. Executive Summary

2007 has been extremely successful. The annual meeting of the Southern African Neurosciences Society was held in conjunction with the Biological Psychiatry Congress in Somerset West, Western Cape. This occurred from 25-28 February. We had the privilege of having Prof Colin Ingram from the University of Newcastle (UK) as our guest.

A number of our members, as well as PhD students had the opportunity of attending international conferences. Due to generous sponsorship from IBRO and other similar funding bodies we were able to host another IBRO sponsored Neuroscience school in Lichtenburg, South Africa from 8-16 December 2007. The theme was “ Brains in the Bushveld.”

Prof Vivienne Russell attended IBRO-related meetings, while Prof Willie Daniels and Dr Strini Naidoo (capacity development delegate) attended the governing council meeting of IBRO. Prof Willie Daniels (as immediate past-president of the Society of Neuroscientists of Africa – SONA) attended the governing council meeting of this body in Kinshasha, DRC). Other members of our societies continued to contribute to national and international congresses as well as publishing their work in renowned journals.

Headings	Activities completed- January to December 2007		Activities planned- January to December 2008
2. Background & Composition of National Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 members (4 female, 5 non white)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disciplines represented – neuroscience, psychology, psychiatry, physiology, pharmacology</li> </ul>	Annual meeting scheduled for October 2008
3. Participation by South Africans in Union activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Viv Russell attended IBRO School Board meeting in San Diego, USA, in October 2007</li> <li>• Viv Russell assisted with selection of IBRO Levi-Montalcini Fellowships for African Women in Neuroscience</li> <li>• Viv Russell attended meeting of the IBRO in 2007 Neuroscience Programme Network in Melbourne, Australia, in July 2007. At the same time, Willie Daniels and Strini Naidoo attended the IBRO governing council meeting.</li> <li>• Viv Russell served as the Southern African Representative (voting member) at the Governing Council meeting of the International Brain Research Organisation (IBRO), San Diego, USA, November 2007</li> <li>• Willie Daniels as member of the SONA executive attended the</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submission of bid to host IBRO Neuroscience school in Durban in 2009, focusing on Addiction.</li> </ul>

Headings	Activities completed- January to December 2007	Activities planned- January to December 2008
	governing council meeting in April 2007, in Kinshasha, DRC. •	
3.1. Size of local community	• 55 members	• Recruitment drive to increase membership
3.2 South Africans serving on Unions or its subsidiary bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Viv Russell serves on the (i) IBRO School Board,</li> <li>• (ii) IBRO Neuroscience Programme Network, (iii) IBRO Levi-Montalcini Fellowships for African Women in Neuroscience Awards Committee, and (iv) IBRO African Regional Committee – Treasurer</li> <li>• Prof Willie Daniels also serves on the African Regional Committee</li> <li>• Prof Soraya Seedat serves on the World Federation of Societies of Biological Psychiatry Task Force Committee on the Developing World</li> <li>• Prof Brian Harvey serves on the Servier Agomelatine Advisory Board, as well as the 2014 IUPHAR World Pharma Congress organising committee.</li> </ul>	•
3.3 Attendance of International Congresses/Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of conferences attended</li> <li>• Number of South African delegates</li> <li>• Number of papers presented</li> </ul>	Some of the meetings that were attended by members of the society include: Society for Neuroscience meeting in San Diego, USA, the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology, Vienna, Austria, European Federation of Neurological Societies, Brussels, Belgium, Brain disorders in the developing world, San Diego, USA, Lifelong learning in Pharmacy, Hatfield, UK, and the IBRO World Congress, Melbourne, Australia. In addition some of our members also spent time in international laboratories learning new techniques eg Prof Santy Daya spent time in the laboratory of Prof Russ Reiter at the University of Texas San Antonio, USA. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of meetings attended = 8</li> <li>• Number of SA delegates = 12 (including postgraduate students)</li> <li>• Number of papers presented = 14</li> <li>• Number of invited lectures = 4</li> </ul>	•
3.4 Capacity Building with regard to Membership of National Committee and involvement of young scientists in International Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UCT PhD student, Fleur Howells and Stellenbosch University PhD student Ilse Pienaar attended the IBRO World Congress in Melbourne.</li> <li>• Dr Strini Naidoo attended the IBRO governing council meeting as our capacity building delegate.</li> <li>• D. Wolmarans, C. Toua and E. Hamlyn, MSc students from</li> </ul>	• Dr Ruth McBride will be approached to serve on the National Committee as soon as a vacancy becomes available.

Headings	Activities completed- January to December 2007	Activities planned- January to December 2008
	<p>North West Univeristy attended a Neuroscience workshop in Cape Town.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Busisiwe Maseko, Don-Jon Moon, Jillani Nigalla, Olantunbosun Olaleye, Lorren Fairbairn, Nadine Gravett and Moyosore Ajao attended a neuroscience school in Johannesburg.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	
3.5 Organisation of Union related Conferences in South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submission of bid to host IBRO World congress in 2011 was unsuccessful. See comments in governing council report attached.</li> <li>• IBRO Neuroscience School held in Lichtenburg – Brain in the Bushveld. See report attached</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bid to host another Neuroscience school in Durban.</li> </ul>
3.6 Contribution by members to documents and publications	See attached document showing selcted publications.	
3.7 Report back on recommendations made during the in depth review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No concerns raised in previous review.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
4. Value to the Community and Benefit to South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disorders of the nervous system remain a national health concern. For instance the prevalence of mental disorders such as depression and substance abuse are escalating particularly in our youth. We as neuroscientists therefore believe that understanding the underlying mechanisms (molecular and behavioural) is vital in designing interventions to assist these persons. Therefore the continuous quest for better information regarding disease aetiology, pathology and pharmacology remains high on the agenda.</li> <li>• We address these issues by: 1) conducting research to generate new knowledge in terms of diagnosis, disease progression and new targets for drug design, 2) training by means of neuroscience schools, 3) and offering public awareness programs to educate and inform the public.</li> <li>• This approach has proven to be effective and successful to the SA community in its broadest definition, and is encouraged widely on a national basis.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
5. Public Society Interfaces and Outreach Programmes – self initiated or facilitated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brain Awareness Week was held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of March 2007. A variety of educational talks and presentations were given to professional and lay people, students, workers and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BAW: we plan to extend our activities to KwaZulu-Natal.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>

<b>Headings</b>	<b>Activities completed- January to December 2007</b>	<b>Activities planned- January to December 2008</b>
by ICSU	<p>geriatric audiences. Ruth McBride chaired Western Cape committee. Members that participated in these activities included Profs Dan Stein and Laurie Kellaway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Alison Bentley and her team at Wits went to schools in Johannesburg area and held workshops about the structure and function of the brain.</li> <li>• The Mental Health Information Centre continues to provide literature and information about mental diseases to the general public. A ceremony was held in Cape Town's oceanarium to give awards to members of the public media that supported brain awareness substantially.</li> </ul>	
6. Research Highlights/ New Initiatives in South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The efforts to establish a central platform for neuroscience in South Africa are ongoing.</li> <li>• Prof Soraya Seedat and Dr Ernesta Meintjes were awarded NRF Chair positions.</li> <li>• Prof Brian Harvey was invited to serve on the Servier Agomelatine Advisory Board.</li> <li>• Prof Viv Russell was invited to Chair the Brain Disorders in the Developing World 2007 Networking Meeting in San Diego.</li> <li>• Prof Santy Daya received a Medallion for his contributions in Melatonin Research by the laboratory of Prof Russ Reiter, University of Texas San Antonio.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of a Neuroscience Research group at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.</li> </ul>
7. Science Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14<sup>th</sup> IBRO Neuroscience school was held in Johannesburg.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Another Neuroscience school is planned for 2008. The topic will be Addiction</li> </ul>

<b>Headings</b>	<b>Activities completed- January to December 2007</b>	<b>Activities planned- January to December 2008</b>
8. Financial assistance received by South Africans direct from ICSU bodies during 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South African students were sponsored to attend the IBRO Neuroscience school in Johannesburg and Morocco respectively.</li> <li>• Prof Viv Russell attended the Society for Neuroscience meeting in San Diego, where her registration fees was substantially reduced.</li> <li>• PhD students Fleur Howels and Ilse Pienaar received travel and registration assistance to attend the IBRO World Congress in Melbourne.</li> <li>• Substantial sponsorship from IBRO and the International Society for Neurochemistry (\$50 000) was received for hosting the neuroscience school in Johannesburg. See school report attached.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar support will be sought for attendance of the Society for Neuroscience meeting in Washington, USA.</li> <li>• Financial aid will also be sought for the hosting of the neuroscience school on Addiction in Durban.</li> </ul>

### **Selected Publications in peer-reviewed journals by members**

Fincham D, Schickerling J, Temane M, Nel D, De Roover W, Seedat S.

Exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis of the multidimensional anxiety scale for children among adolescents in the Cape Town metropole of South Africa. *Depress Anxiety*. 2007 Nov 14

Williams SL, Williams DR, Stein DJ, Seedat S, Jackson PB, Moomal H.

Multiple traumatic events and psychological distress: the South Africa stress and health study. *J Trauma Stress*. 2007 Oct;20(5):845-55.

Killian S, Suliman S, Fakier N, Seedat S.

Rape survivors and the provision of HIV post-exposure prophylaxis. *S Afr Med J*. 2007 Aug;97(8):585-6.

Lochner C, Seedat S, Hemmings SM, Moolman-Smook JC, Kidd M, Stein DJ.

Investigating the possible effects of trauma experiences and 5-HTT on the dissociative experiences of patients with OCD using path analysis and multiple regression. *Neuropsychobiology*. 2007;56(1):6-13.

Stein DJ, Seedat S.

From research methods to clinical practice in psychiatry: challenges and opportunities in the developing world. *Int Rev Psychiatry*. 2007 Oct;19(5):573-81.

Carey PD, Walker JL, Rossouw W, Seedat S, Stein DJ.

Risk indicators and psychopathology in traumatised children and adolescents with a history of sexual abuse. *Eur Child Adolesc Psychiatry*. 2008 Mar;17(2):93-8.

Brink CB, Clapton JD, Eagar BE, Harvey BH.

Appearance of antidepressant-like effect by sildenafil in rats after central muscarinic receptor blockade: evidence from behavioural and neuro-receptor studies. *J Neural Transm*. 2008;115(1):117-25.

Harvey BH, Joubert C, du Preez JL, Berk M.

Effect of chronic N-acetyl cysteine administration on oxidative status in the presence and absence of induced oxidative stress in rat striatum. *Neurochem Res*. 2008 Mar;33(3):508-17.

Maharaj DS, Glass BD, Daya S.

Melatonin: new places in therapy. *Biosci Rep*. 2007 Dec;27(6):299-320.

Dairam A, Müller AC, Daya S.

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents, tolmetin and sulindac attenuate quinolinic acid (QA)-induced oxidative stress in primary hippocampal neurons and reduce QA-induced spatial reference memory deficits in male Wistar rats. *Life Sci*. 2007 Mar 20;80(15):1431-8.

Dairam A, Limson JL, Watkins GM, Antunes E, Daya S.

Curcuminoids, curcumin, and demethoxycurcumin reduce lead-induced memory deficits in male Wistar rats.  
J Agric Food Chem. 2007 Feb 7;55(3):1039-44.

Bentley AJ, Rosman KD, Mitchell D.

Can the sensory symptoms of restless legs syndrome be assessed using a qualitative pain questionnaire?  
Clin J Pain. 2007 Jan;23(1):62-6.

Pienaar IS, Schallert T, Russell VA, Kellaway LA, Carr JA, Daniels WM.

Early pubertal female rats are more resistant than males to 6-hydroxydopamine neurotoxicity and behavioural deficits: A possible role for trophic factors.  
Restor Neurol Neurosci. 2007;25(5-6):513-26.

Howells FM, Russell VA.

Glutamate-stimulated release of norepinephrine in hippocampal slices of animal models of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (spontaneously hypertensive rat) and depression/anxiety-like behaviours (Wistar-Kyoto rat).  
Brain Res. 2008 Mar 20;1200C:107-15.

Russell VA.

Reprint of "Neurobiology of animal models of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder".  
J Neurosci Methods. 2007 Nov 30;166(2):I-XIV. Review.

Mabandla MV, Dobson B, Johnson S, Kellaway LA, Daniels WM, Russell VA.

Development of a mild prenatal stress rat model to study long term effects on neural function and survival.  
Metab Brain Dis. 2008 Mar;23(1):31-42. Epub 2007 Aug 2.

Lehohla M, Kellaway L, Russell VA.

Effect of ageing on Ca(2+) uptake via NMDA receptors into barrel cortex slices of spontaneously hypertensive rats.  
Metab Brain Dis. 2008 Mar;23(1):1-8. Epub 2007 Jun 27.

Khoboko T, Russell VA.

Effects of development and dopamine depletion on striatal NMDA receptor-mediated calcium uptake.  
Metab Brain Dis. 2008 Mar;23(1):9-30. Epub 2007 Jun 27.

Stein DJ, Fan J, Fossella J, Russell VA.

Inattention and hyperactivity-impulsivity: psychobiological and evolutionary underpinnings of ADHD.  
CNS Spectr. 2007 Mar;12(3):190, 193-6.

Russell VA.

Neurobiology of animal models of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder.  
J Neurosci Methods. 2007 Nov 30;166(2):I-XIV.

Faure J, Uys JD, Marais L, Stein DJ, Daniels WM.

Early maternal separation alters the response to traumatization: resulting in increased levels of hippocampal neurotrophic factors.  
Metab Brain Dis. 2007 Jun;22(2):183-95. Epub 2007 Apr 29.

**Final Report: IBRO Postgraduate Neuroscience School**

**“Brains in the Bushveld”**

**Lichtenburg, South Africa, 8-16 December, 2007.**

**Organizers:** Prof. Paul R. Manger and Dr. Amadi O. Ihunwo, School of Anatomical Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa.

**Sponsors:** International Brain Research Organization (IBRO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN), Department of Science and Technology, South Africa (DST), National Zoological Gardens of South Africa (NZG), The University of the Witwatersrand (WITS).

**Background to the Brains in the Bushveld IBRO School:**

One of the defining features of the African continent is its unique biodiversity. The range of species in comparison to the majority of continents is truly remarkable, however, it is unfortunate that the majority of work in the neurosciences undertaken in Africa does not avail itself of this tremendous resource found literally in our backyard. We can ask: “Why study something like Parkinson’s disease in the laboratory rat in Africa when there are laboratories in the USA and European Union investing enormous resources into this line of research?” and “Why not spend African money on understanding African issues, such as gaining deeper insights and appreciation of the indigenous fauna using the tools available to the neuroscientist?” One of the central tenets of any research in the neurosciences, especially where animal models of human mental illness are involved, is the acceptance of the evolutionary process – if evolution is not real, then the use of animal models would not be scientifically sound. However, the extrapolation of findings in the laboratory rat to human is fraught with problems, as the evolutionary processes leading to the structure of the brain in the rat and human are both essentially different and essentially similar. Only a full understanding of the processes of brain evolution will allow accurate extrapolation of findings in model animals of mental illness to humans. In the sense of understanding neural evolutionary processes, especially in the mammals, the African fauna holds a unique and highly advantageous position from which significant insights into understanding evolution of the brain can be made. The fauna of Africa is key to understanding brain evolution, and thus the study of the brains of African fauna is a meaningful and broad ranging contribution that African neuroscientists can make to global knowledge.

**Structure of the School:**

Full details are contained in the booklet attached to this report. This booklet was provided to all students and instructors at the School.

**Lectures:** These involved one-hour long presentations of the fundamentals of evolutionary research in neuroscience and how these can be applied to designing research projects of importance in an African context. The staff that delivered these lectures used examples of the type of neuroscience research that can be undertaken outside of the laboratory drawing on examples from their own experience of “field neuroscience”.

**Practicals:** These combine aspects of demonstration and hands-on experience of techniques that can be readily used in the field. The students were divided into four groups, and each day the following four practical sessions were run.

Practical One: Capture and handling of small mammals – Dr. Marietjie Oosthuizen and Ms. Katarina Medger. Each afternoon a group of students were taken into the field to teach them how to set traps, learning about what signs to look for in choosing trap location, what baits to use, and a variety of bush skills learnt from experience when aiming to capture small mammals with minimal stress and harm to the animals. Early the following morning the students were taken to check the traps, and in releasing the animals caught, the students learnt proper handling techniques of small mammals outside of the laboratory environment.

Practical Two: Behavioural monitoring in field conditions – Prof. Howard Cooper and Prof. Hans-Peter Lipp. This practical session involved the set up and use of an activity recording system that uses infra-red activity captors to record locomotor activity in cages or open spaces and a video tracking system to record second by second movement of an animal.

Practical Three: Implantation of thermal devices in the brain – Prof. Duncan Mitchell, Dr. Leith Mayer, Dr. Linda Fick and Ms. Robyn Hetem. This practical involved the implantation of a thermal measuring probe into the brain of a sheep in the field under field aseptic conditions.

Practical Four: Perfusion of large animals in the field – Prof. Paul Manger, Dr. Ludo Badlangana and Dr. Amadi Ihunwo. This practical involved the demonstration of anaesthesia and humane sacrifice of a blesbok following which intra-arterial perfusion of the head, fixing the brain for scientific use, and removal of the brain was demonstrated. Following the demonstration each of the students were supplied with a sheep head from which they learnt to remove the brain.

**Evening lectures:** These involved a one-hour lecture by the participating members of the teaching staff on topics of interest to the aims of the school through which students were encouraged to ask questions and discuss matters of interest. These involved topics ranging from the experiences of participating members through to more theoretical issues. These lectures were intentionally kept informal to encourage strong participation from the students. One lecture was even delivered under the stars.

**Student Attendees:**

Mr Moyosore Ajao (Nigeria/South Africa), PhD student

Ms Asma Arfaoui (Morocco), PhD student

Mr Adhil Bhagwandin (South Africa), PhD student

Ms Nezha Bouhaddou (Morocco), PhD student

Ms Mariam Boulahrouf (Morocco), PhD student

Ms Samira Boulbaroud (Morocco), PhD student

Mr Nii Darko (Ghana/Morocco), PhD student

Ms Zouhra Doukkali (Morocco), PhD student

Mr Abdeljalil Elgot (Morocco), PhD student

Ms Lorren Fairburn (South Africa), MSc student

Ms Nadine Gravett (South Africa), MSc student

Ms Houda Haban (Morocco), PhD student

Mrs Olumayo Igado (Nigeria), PhD student

Mr Charles Kato (Uganda), MSc student  
Ms Nora Kharmoudi (Morocco), PhD student  
Mr Samuel Kimani (Kenya), PhD student  
Mr Sammy Kimoloi (Kenya), PhD student  
Ms Mounia-Sarah Klouche (Morocco), PhD student  
Ms Busisiwe Maseko (South Africa), PhD student  
Mr Pedzisai Mazenganya (Zimbabwe), PhD student  
Mr Don-Joon Moon (South Korea/South Africa), MSc student  
Mr Paulin Nana (Cameroon), PhD student  
Mr Jillani Ngalla (Kenya/South Africa), PhD student  
Mr Pilani Nkomozezi (Zimbabwe), PhD student  
Mr Olatunbosun Olaleye (Nigeria/South Africa), MSc student  
Ms Mariam Sabbar (Morocco), PhD student  
Mrs Sennuga Temitope (Nigeria), PhD student

**Instructors**

Dr Ludo Badlangana (Botswana)  
Prof Howard Cooper (France)  
Dr Linda Fick (South Africa)  
Ms Robyn Hetem (South Africa)  
Dr Amadi Ihunwo (Nigeria/South Africa)  
Prof Antoinette Kotze (South Africa/NZG)  
Prof Hans-Peter Lipp (Switzerland)  
Prof Paul Manger (Australia/South Africa)  
Ms Katarina Medger (Germany/South Africa)  
Dr Leith Meyer (South Africa)  
Prof Duncan Mitchell (South Africa)  
Prof Abdul Mohammad (Kenya/Sweden)  
Dr Marietjie Oosthuizen (South Africa)

Prof Nilesh Patel (Kenya)

Prof Jack Pettigrew (Australia)

**Budget:**

<b>INCOMES</b>	<b>Amount (ZAR)</b>
IBRO core grant (40 000 USD)	271578.00
IBRO extra (6 000 USD)	39794.20
Department of Science and Technology, South Africa	70000.00
International Society for Neurochemistry (4 000 USD)	28099.60
University of the Witwatersrand	38943.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>448414.80</b>

**EXPENDITURE**

Air Travel Students	187871.00
Air Travel Instructors	75038.00
Accommodation (all)	59405.18
Catering (all)	80200.00
Local Travel (bus and instructors)	27549.25
Maropeng Day Trip	3291.05
Student prizes (two books)	2375.32
Handbook Printing and Binding	2340.00
Incidental costs	10445.25
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>448515.05</b>
Overspend	-100.25

## **Meeting of the Governing Council of the International Brain Research Organization**

Report by Prof WMU Daniels

The above-mentioned meeting was held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Melbourne, Australia on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2007. The meeting was attended by 35 delegates representing all the continents of the world. The South African delegation was led by myself and Dr Strini Naidoo was the capacity building delegate.

The meeting was opened by Prof Albert Aguayo (Canada) the IBRO president. After accepting the agenda, the minutes of the previous meeting held in Atlanta (USA) in October 2006, was adopted.

The new secretary-general, Prof Marina Bentivoglio, gave her report in which she highlighted the successes of the school drive by IBRO. She referred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Neuroscience school in the UAE, the 6<sup>th</sup> school in Latin-America in Sao Paolo, the Neuroscience school in Kampala, Uganda as well as one in Zagreb, Croatia. It was the first time that neuroscience events were held in these cities. She also complemented and thanked the Society for Neuroscientists of Africa (SONA) for the excellent meeting held in Kinshasha, DRC. At this meeting a number of South Africans gave plenary lectures – for example Prof Willie Daniels (Stellenbosch), Prof Ahmed Bigjee (KwaZulu-Natal) and Dr Sulaiman Selemani (Johannesburg private practice).

Prof Steve Redman the IBRO Treasurer, gave his financial report. The affairs of IBRO appeared sound which hold promise for activities planned for 2008.

The major part of the meeting was used to discuss the host for the next IBRO meeting in 2011. It was noted that 10 countries submitted bids to serve as hosts that included one from the Southern African Neurosciences Society (SANS). Prof Josef Syka, convenor of the last IBRO meeting in Prague, was the chairman of the bidding committee. He explained the strategy the committee adopted in choosing a short list of 4 countries. In the case of the South African bid drawbacks were the proposed date (April and not the usual July), the relatively low registration fess proposed (fear of budgetary balance) and the lack of institutional support (no letter of support from governmental departments). The 4 countries on the short list were Canada, Singapore, Italy and Brazil. Each country was given an opportunity to present their country to the delegates after which a voting poll was held. Subsequently Italy and Canada were elected as finalists. It was also decided that in order to have greater voting representation, the election of the final host country would occur via electronic voting. (PS In October Italy own the electronic vote).

After this matter, the meeting closed at 16h00.